



PRESS OFFICE

News Release

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Internet Address: www.sba.gov/nh

Contact: Alice Zachos, 603 225-1607

Email: alice.zachos@sba.gov

SBA'S NEW HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT OFFICE INITIATES ECONOMIC HOTLINE TO ASSIST SMALL BUSINESSES

CONCORD - The U.S. Small Business Administration's New Hampshire District Office has launched its first-ever **Small Business Economic Hotline** in response to the concerns raised by the state's small business community during these uncertain economic times. The purpose of this hotline is to give small business a single phone number they can call with business related questions. Small business owners can get advice on ways to enhance their marketing plans, re-evaluate their business plans and look for new sources of financing. Business counseling services are confidential, free of charge and are available throughout New Hampshire.

"Many small business owners are concerned about the volatile national economy, the rising costs of doing business, tightening credit markets and how it will affect their day-to-day operations," comments Witmer Jones, SBA's New Hampshire district director. "We will make every effort to answer calls directly, and where messages are left between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., the call will be returned within the same business day. The phone number is 603-225-1407 and all calls are confidential."

The hotline is dedicated to providing expedited business counseling from SBA and their resource partner experts, including SCORE, the Small Business Development Center and the Women's Business Center. It is imperative that business owners seek out financing options as soon as they anticipate a need, they should call the SBA to receive advice on ways to enhance their chances of obtaining capital in a timely manner.

The SBA provides financial, management and technical assistance to thousands of small business owners throughout the country. The Web site can be accessed at all times, as well as the SBA's other online resources and free online training at www.sba.gov.

SBA Small Business Hotline: 603-225-1407

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